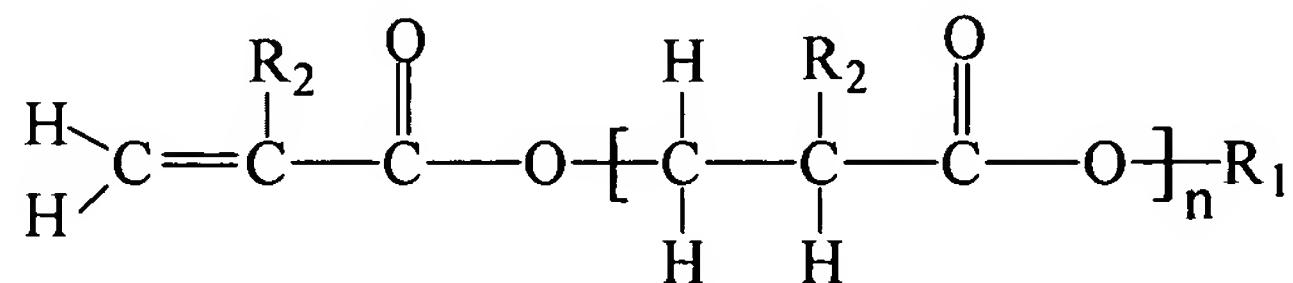


Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the current Abstract on page 35 of the specification and add the following new abstract:

Abstract

A process and a device usable in cleaving a (meth)acrylic acid oligomer of structure I



I

wherein

R_1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl groups,

R_2 is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and

n is a whole number within the range between 1 and 200,

is disclosed. Optionally, the process and/or the device are capable of including a cleaving agent of the structure $\text{R}_3\text{-OH}$ or of the structure $(\text{R}_4)_2\text{-N-H}$, whereby R_3 is a hydrogen atom, a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group, or a $-\text{C}_x\text{H}_{2x}\text{-OH-}$ group, whereby x is a whole number within a range from 1 to 12, and R_4 is a hydrogen atom or a C_1 to C_{12} alkyl group, with the proviso that not both R_4 groups are hydrogen atoms. With or without the cleaving agent, the process and/or the device involve heating to a temperature of at least 50°C at a pressure of at least 1 bar.

Please amend the title to read: "CLEAVING OLIGOMERIC (METH)ACRYLIC ACID IN A LIQUID PHASE UNDER PRESSURE."

Please delete the section titled "List of Reference Numerals" on pages 33-34 of the specification.